

Response dated April 7, 2005
Response to Office Action dated February 8, 2005

Application No. 09/864,383

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain comprising the steps of:

determining said supply chain;

inputting data concerning at least one of multiple suppliers in said supply chain;

inputting a hierarchical identification of a selected hierarchical level within an individual supplier, the individual supplier being one of said at least one of multiple suppliers;

displaying, for at least one selected hierarchical level, performance indicators for said supply chain, said performance indicators relating to the performance of said at least one supplier with regard to other entities in said supply chain; and

producing an evaluation score for said at least one supplier based on said inputted data.

2. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 1, wherein said performance indicators displayed in said displaying step comprise at least one of:

returns, damaged returns group sales, net sales, buying margin, achieved margin, lateness of order, and service level.

3. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 2, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.

4. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 3, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.

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5. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 1, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.
6. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 5, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.
7. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 1, comprising the further step of comparing said evaluation scores for multiple suppliers.
8. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 7, wherein said comparison is in tabular form.
9. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 7, wherein said comparison is in graphical form.
10. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 1, comprising the further step of comparing said performance indicators for multiple suppliers.
11. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 7, wherein said performance indicators are displayed in tabular form.
12. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 7, wherein said performance indicators are displayed in graphical form.
13. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 1, wherein said evaluation score is a numeric representation of performance.
14. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 13, wherein said numeric representation is on a scale of 1 to 10.
15. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 1, wherein said evaluation score is represented in a scale of colors indicating the overall rating of said supplier.

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16. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 1, comprising the further step of providing for input of anecdotal information.

17. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 1, comprising the further step of linking said evaluation score to a product type.

18. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 1, comprising the further step of ranking multiple ones of said suppliers by said evaluation scores.

19. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 1, comprising the further step of restricting said inputting step to authorized personnel.

20. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain performing steps comprising:

determining said supply chain;

accessing data concerning at least one of multiple suppliers in said supply chain;

inputting a hierarchical identification of a selected hierarchical level within an individual supplier, the individual supplier being one of said at least one of multiple suppliers;

displaying, for at least one selected hierarchical level, performance indicators for said supply chain, said performance indicators relating to the performance of said at least one supplier with regard to other entities in said supply chain; and

calculating an evaluation score for said at least one supplier based on said accessed data.

21. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 20, wherein said performance indicators displayed in said displaying step comprise at least one of:

returns, damaged returns group sales, net sales, buying margin, achieved margin, lateness of order, and service level.

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22. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 21, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.

23. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 22, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.

24. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 20, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.

25. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 24, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.

26. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 20, comprising the further step of comparing said evaluation scores for multiple suppliers.

27. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 26, wherein said comparison is in tabular form.

28. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 26, wherein said comparison is in graphical form.

29. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 20, comprising the further step of comparing said performance indicators for multiple suppliers.

30. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 26, wherein said performance indicators are displayed in tabular form.

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31. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 26, wherein said performance indicators are displayed in graphical form.

32. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 20, wherein said evaluation score is a numeric representation of performance.

33. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 20, wherein said numeric representation is on a scale of 1 to 10.

34. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 20, wherein said evaluation score is represented in a scale of colors indicating the overall rating of said supplier.

35. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 20, comprising the further step of providing for input of anecdotal information

36. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 20, comprising the further step of linking said evaluation score to a product type.

37. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 20, comprising the further step of ranking multiple ones of said suppliers by said evaluation scores.

38. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 20, comprising the further step of restricting said inputting step to authorized personnel.

39. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain, comprising:

a module/component determining said supply chain;

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a module/component accessing data concerning at least one of multiple suppliers in said supply chain;

a module/component inputting a hierarchical identification of a selected hierarchical level within an individual supplier, the individual supplier being one of said at least one of multiple suppliers;

a module/component displaying, for at least one selected hierarchical level, performance indicators for said supply chain, said performance indicators relating to the performance of said at least one supplier with regard to other entities in said supply chain; and

a module/component calculating an evaluation score for said at least one supplier based on said access data.

40. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 39, wherein said performance indicators comprise at least one of:

returns, damaged returns group sales, net sales, buying margin, achieved margin, lateness of order, and service level.

41. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 40, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.

42. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 41, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.

43. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 39, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.

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44. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 43, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.

45. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 39, comprising the further module/component comparing said evaluation scores for multiple suppliers.

46. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 45, wherein said comparison is in tabular form.

47. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 45, wherein said comparison is in graphical form.

48. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 39, comprising the further module/component comparing said performance indicators for multiple suppliers.

49. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 45, wherein said performance indicators are displayed in tabular form.

50. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 45, wherein said performance indicators are displayed in graphical form.

51. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 39, wherein said evaluation score is a numeric representation of performance.

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52. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 39, wherein said numeric representation is on a scale of 1 to 10.

53. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 39, wherein said evaluation score is represented in a scale of colors indicating the overall rating of said supplier.

54. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 39, comprising the further module/component providing for input of anecdotal information.

55. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 39, comprising the further module component linking said evaluation score to a product type.

56. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 39, comprising the further module/component ranking multiple ones of said suppliers by said evaluation scores.

57. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 39, comprising the further module/component restricting said inputting step to authorized personnel.

58. (Previously Presented) A system for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain comprising:

a database of information concerning at least one of multiple suppliers in said supply chain;

an input interface that inputs a hierarchical identification of a selected hierarchical level within an individual supplier, the individual supplier being one of said at least one of multiple suppliers;

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an interface displaying, for at least one selected hierarchical level, performance indicators for said supply chain, said performance indicators relating to the performance of said at least one supplier with regard to other entities in said supply chain; and

a processor determining said supply chain and producing an evaluation score for at least one supplier based on inputted data.

59. (Original) A system for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 58, wherein said performance indicators displayed in said displaying step comprise at least one of:

returns, damaged returns group sales, net sales, buying margin, achieved margin, lateness of order, and service level.

60. (Original) A system for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 59, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.

61. (Original) A system for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 60, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.

62. (Original) A system of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 58, wherein said evaluation score is based upon deliveries, quality, documentation, culture, and communication.

63. (Original) A system of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 62, wherein said evaluation score is based on pre-season and in-season performance.

64. (Original) A system of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 58, wherein said processor compares said evaluation scores for multiple suppliers.

65. (Original) A system of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 64, wherein said comparison is in tabular form.

66. (Original) A system of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 64, wherein said comparison is in graphical form.

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67. (Original) A system of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 58, wherein said processor compares said performance indicators for multiple suppliers.

68. (Original) A system of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 67, wherein said performance indicators are displayed in tabular form.

69. (Original) A system of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 64, wherein said performance indicators are displayed in graphical form.

70. (Original) A system of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 64, wherein said evaluation score is a numeric representation of performance.

71. (Original) A system of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 58, wherein said numeric representation is on a scale of 1 to 10.

72. (Original) A system of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 58, wherein said evaluation score is represented in a scale of colors indicating the overall rating of said supplier.

73. (Original) A system of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 58, wherein anecdotal information can be stored in a memory location for selected suppliers.

74. (Original) A system of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 58, wherein said processor links said evaluation score to a product type.

75. (Original) A system of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 58, wherein said processor ranks multiple ones of said suppliers by said evaluation scores.

76. (Previously Presented) A system of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 58, wherein information may be inputted into said database by authorized personnel.

77. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 1, comprising the further step of providing a bulletin board so that users may communicate to assess and evaluating the supply base.

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78. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 77, wherein said bulletin board screen facilitates informal communication, quickly spreading news on suppliers.

79. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 77, comprising the further step of defining a removal time for a message at which time a message will be automatically removed.

80. (Original) A method of evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 77, wherein QA users can view, edit, delete, or publish messages posted by general users.

81. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 20, comprising the further step of providing a bulletin board so that users may communicate to assess and evaluating the supply base.

82. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 81, wherein said bulletin board screen facilitates informal communication, quickly spreading news on suppliers.

83. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 81, comprising the further step of defining a removal time for a message at which time a message will be automatically removed.

84. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 81, wherein QA users can view, edit, delete, or publish messages posted by general users.

85. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 39, comprising the further step of providing a bulletin board so that users may communicate to assess and evaluating the supply base.

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86. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 85, wherein said bulletin board screen facilitates informal communication, quickly spreading news on suppliers.

87. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 85, comprising the further step of defining a removal time for a message at which time a message will be automatically removed.

88. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules/components for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 85, wherein QA users can view, edit, delete, or publish messages posted by general users.

89. (Original) A system for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 58, a bulletin board so that users may communicate to assess and evaluating the supply base.

90. (Original) A system for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 89, wherein said bulletin board screen facilitates informal communication, quickly spreading news on suppliers.

91. (Original) A system for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 89, wherein said message to be posted on said bulletin board include a removal time at which time said message will be automatically removed.

92. (Original) A system for evaluating the supply base of a supply chain as recited in claim 89, wherein QA users can view, edit, delete, or publish messages posted by general users.

93. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

receiving data concerning at least one of a plurality of suppliers;

determining a supply chain;